THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Government has announced industrial incentive packages providing various fiscal concessions/incentives for the North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal. The package(s) for these States are hilly, remote and inaccessible, besides facing internal disturbances. As the State of Gujarat faces no such geographical adversities, there is no proposal to extend any incentives for industries.

Industrial Growth Centres in Tamil Nadu

173. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many industrial growth centres have been opened in the country alongwith the number of such centres opened in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the funds provided by Government to the Industrial growth centres in Tamil Nadu during last three years; and

(c) the number of such centres proposed to be opened in future in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 71 Growth Centres have been sanctioned throughout the country. Out of these, three Growth Centres, namely; Erode (Periyar Distt.), Oragadam (Kancheepuram Distt.) and Gangai Kondan (Tirunelveli Distt.) have been allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu. No central assistance has been released to these Growth Centres during the last three years. There is no proposal to set any more Growth Centres in Tamil Nadu.

Annual Expenditure of MPEDA

174. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure of MPEDA in 2003-04, 2004-05 and the projected expenditure in 2005-06; and

(b) what are the reasons for enhancing the budget?